

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00008 101128Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /084 W

----- 117691

R 101045Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1887

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0008

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: MINISTER JUSTICE DENIES UNDUE DELAY IN BRINGING
DETAINEES TO TRIAL

REF: CAPE TOWN 892, DURBAN 430

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH DEILY NEWS JANUARY 9, MINISTER OF JUSTICE KRUGER CLAIMED HIS DECEMBER 14 STATEMENT THAT SASO/BPC DETAINEES TO BE TRIED "WITHIN THREE WEEKS" (CAPE TOWN 892) INACCURATELY REPORTED. ACCORDING TO KRUGER, HE STATED ONLY THAT HE HOPED THEY WOULD BE TRIED "WITHIN A FEW WEEKS".

2. IN RESPONSE TO UNITED PARTY AND OTHER CRITICISM, KRUGER ALSO DENIED ANY UNDUE DELAY IN BRINGING DETAINEES TO TRIAL. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH WORK OF POLICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF TRANSVAAL WHO IS HANDLING THE CASE AND "WORKING AS HARD AS POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE MATTERS".

3. COMMENT: MANY OF THE YOUNG DETAINEES HAVE NOW BEEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO AND, PRESUMABLY, IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR
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THREE AND A HALF MONTHS. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL RECEIVED VISITS

FROM FAMILIES, GREAT BULK HAVE BEEN DENIED ALL VISITORS.
SAG HAS STILL NOT GIVEN ANY INDICATION WHEN OR EVEN IF THEY
WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. SOME OBSERVERS IN DURBAN
SPECULATING THAT SAG MAY BE HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN DEVELOPING
CASES AGAINST DETAINEES THAT WILL STAND UP IN COURT.
HOLMES

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NNN

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